

T H E

C A S E

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Sir JOHN LAMBERT, Bar^k.

THAT he has been a Trader in this City near Forty Years; during which Time, few private Men have Exported more of the Wollen Manufacture and Products of these Kingdoms, or have been greater Encouragers of the *British Navigation*, he having been sole, and Part-owner of no less than Fourscore *British Ships*; that in the last Eight Years only his Exportations have amounted to above Five Hundred Thousand Pounds, and during this long and Extensive Commerce he never was engaged, or any way Accessory to any Clandestine Trading to the prejudice of the Fair Merchant, or defrauding the Publick.

That it having been reported, that he had sent Abroad several Quantities of Bullion, to the great Prejudice of this Kingdom, he can prove that for several Years last past his Importations of Gold and Silver have amounted to above Four times the Value of what he has Exported; for upon Inspection of his Books it appears; that in the Eight last Years he Exported no more than Seventy Thousand Eight Hundred and Thirty One Pounds Twelve Shillings and Three Pence, and that he Imported within the same time Two Hundred Ninety Four Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Pounds.

That he has upon all Occasions shewed his Zeal for the Publick, by employing the utmost of his Fortune and Credit for their Service, abroad in their Exigencies (when others Cautiously withdrew) particularly by subsisting the Prisoners in *Spain*, after the Battle of *Almanza*, as also the Fleets and Garrisons in the *Mediterranean*, as is well known to the Treasury, the Fleet, and the Army.

That he went into *France* in *August*, 1719. at which time he was possessed of an Estate of above Seventy Thousand Pounds, before there was any prospect of the late Scheme, and did not return till the Thirtieth of *March* following, so that the *South-Sea-Scheme* was both projected, and the Bill past, in his absence.

In the Beginning of *April* he Opposed in a Court of Directors the Ten *per Cent.* Dividend in Stock; when he was told that his Judgment was prejudiced by the late Proceedings in *France*, but that their *English-Scheme* was of a different Nature. That he was not present till the Twenty Second of *April* 1720. in the Committee of Treasury, and, tho' one of that Committee, was chiefly concerned and employed in Transacting their Business upon the *Exchange*, in the Way of Drawing and Remitting, before which time the Affair of taking in Stock was over, and to which he was no ways Privy.

Neither

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Neither was he ever Concerned or Employed in Buying or Selling Stock for the Company's Account, but his Extensive Correspondence abroad, obliged him and Company (as Merchants to Buy and Sell considerable Parcels of Stock by Commission, and which till this late Unhappy Turn of Affairs has always been regarded as a Singular Advantage to the Publick Funds.

He is ready to produce Uncontested Proofs that he never made use of his Correspondents Names, or any feigned Name, to Conceal or Colour any Stocks of his own; and he was so far from Advising and Encouraging the Foreigners to sell out their Stocks, that on the contrary, when he had Orders so to do, he has instead of disposing of them to others, often loaded himself with their Stocks at High Prices, by which he has been a Great Loser, having now near three time as much Stock as he had in *August 1719*.

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That he was wholly Ignorant of the Grounds of the *South Sea Company's Scheme*, or any Fraudulent or Corrupt Designs in Carrying it on; and has been so far from making any Private Advantage to himself thereby, that his Estate is now less than it was in *August, 1719*.

He was several Years one of the Directors of the said Company, and never had any Mismanagement laid to his Charge; and was Chose this last time Two Years before this Scheme was set on Foot, therefore could not have any View of enriching himself by it.

He has had the Misfortune of several Aspersions industriously tho' undeservedly cast upon him, which he can prove to be entirely False and Groundless: However is Apprehensive they have already made some Impressions to his Prejudice.

Upon these Considerations he humbly submits himself to the Wisdom and Justice of this Honourable House.

